

**MINUTES OF THE  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 20, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W130 House Building

**Members Present:**

Rep. Douglas G. Aagard, House Chair  
Sen. Dan R. Eastman  
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard  
Rep. Roger E. Barrus  
Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman  
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove  
Rep. Glenn A. Donnelson  
Rep. Janice M. Fisher  
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson  
Rep. John G. Mathis  
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Parley Hellewell, Senate Chair  
Sen. Brent H. Goodfellow  
Rep. Craig W. Buttars  
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings  
Rep. Patrick L. Painter  
Rep. Mark W. Walker

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Eric N. Weeks, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. A. Brooke Ollerton, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Aagard called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Donnelson moved to approve the minutes of the June 21 and July 19, 2006 meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Purchasing Cards Audit**

Mr. Rick Coleman, Deputy Auditor General, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, introduced himself and Mr. Brandon Bowen, Office of the Legislative Auditor General. Mr. Bowen presented the results of a performance audit of the p-card (purchasing card) program. He explained the program and highlighted the increase in p-card expenditures. The audit revealed that while many agencies complied with transaction requirements, some did not. Compliance rates for all other requirements were higher for those agencies that kept transaction logs. Mr. Bowman stressed the need for improved oversight and updated policies. Mr. Coleman and Mr. Bowen answered committee questions about the p-card program and the report.

Mr. Douglas Richins, Director, (Division) Division of Purchasing and General Services, thanked the Office of the Legislative Auditor General for its report and stated that the Division embraced the recommendations. He said that his division would be adding a new employee to implement the recommendations. He answered questions from the committee about rebates, training, and accounting responsibilities within each agency.

Chair Aagard asked whether supervisors understand p-card policies, whether the investigation of unauthorized purchases was look at, and about the duties of the new employee.

Mr. Bowen said unauthorized purchase was outside the scope of the audit and that supervisor evaluation was the responsibility of each agency.

Mr. Richins added that more training was needed within the agencies and that the new employee would be doing training, audits, as well as performing other duties. He assured Chair Aagard that if he finds problems, he has authority to cancel any p-card delegation.

### **3. Open and Public Meetings Act (Draft Legislation)**

Representative Wayne A. Harper outlined the draft legislation, "Open and Public Meetings Act Amendments" (2007FL-0100/010). He explained that this bill was drafted to correct some incongruous items from similar legislation proposed in the last general session. He noted changes on lines 60-62 that would ensure that all public bodies are subject to the Open and Public Meeting Act. Lines 84-93 clarify the requirement for minutes of public meetings. He answered questions from the Committee.

Chair Aagard announced that a vote would proceed on the bill once a quorum was present.

### **4. Utah Procurement Code Provisions**

**MOTION:** Rep. Cosgrove moved to recommend "Open and Public Meetings Act Amendments" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Douglas Richins provided an overview of the origin, purpose, and affected entities of the state procurement code. He discussed procurement structure, procurement processes, and the protest process. He stated that the code's purpose is to provide transparency in state government. He answered questions from the Committee about procurement policies, protest deadlines, the bidding process, purchasing from local merchants, reciprocal preference laws, and conflicts of interest.

Sen. Hillyard invited Mr. Richins to think of three changes to law that could improve his department's operations and to bring those suggestions back to the Committee.

### **5. Other Items / Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Bowman moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Aagard adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.